THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 5936. *Thursday, Dec.* 31, 1840. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, and *The Castle of Otranto; or, Harlequin and the Giant Helmet,* were performed to a very crowded audience. Two young men were charged at the Bow Street Police Office on Tuesday with having created a disturbance in the slips of thisTheatre on the preceding evening, and the charge having been proved, the delinquents were fined respectively to a heavy amount.

HAY-MARKET THEATRE.

So highly attractive have *The Ladies' Club*, and *Tom Thumb*, proved on their revival here, that they will be repeated every evening, with their powerful adjunct *Money.* These formed the entertainments yesterday evening, and a very brilliant audience was present.

VICTORIA.—Tragedy and Pantomime are now the nightly entertainments here. In the former, Miss Emmeline Montague has been sustaining parts with a truthfulness and grace that would shed a lustre over the performances of a much larger Theatre. Her conceptions, which are full of sweetness, have been comparatively wasted on the holiday folks, who are nightly cramming this house, and who care more for a single transformation achieved by the magic wand of *Harlequin* Howell, than they do for *Jane Shore, Venice Preserved,* and *Romeo and Juliet,* united. The new Comic Pantomime of *Harlequin Jack of Newbury; or, Baa Baa Black Sheep and the Old Woman of Berkeley,* is a most magnificent affair. Of the literary portion of it being good the fact of its having been written by the veteran Moncrieff, will be sufficient testimony. The Pantomime characters are all well sustained, the scenery and dresses are gorgeous, and the tricks are full of pleasantry. It will well repay a visit.

Buckstone is rapidly making a fortune in America. He is playing everywhere throughout the States to crowded houses.

Pantomimes.—This amusing and extraordinary art was the invention of two Romans of obscure station, named Pylades and Barthyllus, who in the reign of Augustus were rivals in its profession. Pantomime was the title originally given to the actor, and not to the performance as at present, and the admiration bestowed upon this species of comedian was, at one time, exceeding that given to any other. In the sixth century, Cassiodorus describes the Pantomimes as "men who speak while they were silent, and knew how to make an entire recital without opening their mouths; men in

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short whom Polhymnia had formed, in order to shew that there was no necessity for articulating in order to convey our thoughts." The testimony borne by Lucian, and other writers of the age, abundantly testifies the high opinion in which they then stood. Pantomime flourished in Rome for about 200 years, and sank there in the general annihilation for a time of the sciences and literature For the very high state of perfection at which it has arrived in England, it is indebted to John Rich, the original patentee and manager of Covent Garden Theatre. He gained considerable reputation by the Pantomimes he published under the assumed name of Lun, jun. Since then this species of entertainment has much flourished, and the Pantomimes are now produced with extraordinary attraction.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, stroll to Madame TUSSAUD's elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker Street, Portman Square.—Just added to her unrivalled collection the full length figure of that wonderful violinist Paganini ; also splendid figures of Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert in his military costume, the group of John Knox reproving Mary Queen of Scots, consisting of Mary, Elizabeth, Henry VIII, Luther, Calvin, and Knox, in magnificent costumes.

On Tuesday, visit the DIORAMA. Regent's Park, to see the new and splendid view, *The Shrine of the Nativity at Bethlehem*, painted by M. Renoux, from a sketch made on the spot by David Roberts, Esq., A R.A. and the view of *The Coronation of Queen Victoria* in Westminster Abbey, by M. Bouton. This delightful Exhibition is open every day from ten till half-past four.

Wednesday, pay a visit to the Somerset Gallery, 151, Strand, next door to Somerset House, to see a most wonderful exhibition, *The Industrious Fleas*. They dance, ride, drive a four-in-hand, fight, and in fact do everything in first rate style, exciting the admiration of all present. By the bye, this is Signor Bertolotto's exhibition, that he has been exhibiting for the last eight years.

On Thursday go to the Cosmorama Rooms, 209, Regent Street, to view the new and beautiful viws now exhibting here ; they are of the most interesting description, and deserve the patronage they receive,

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS's Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,—quite delighted with the excellence of the singing, commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

" Why is one of Perring's Beavers like the Queen's first head dress ?"—" Because it is *a Crown* that sits lightly on the head of the wearer—one that will last through tumult and tempest, and though it may *reign* for ever, can never be injured.—Try Perring's Hats not to be equalled for cheapness, lightness, and durability, at 21s. each.—85, Strand.

" All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigar, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare.

Friday, drop into *The Florentine Anatomical Museum*, Margaret Street, Regent Street, to admire the splendid Anatomical Figures of Venus and Adonis, modelled from nature, and as large as life.

Mrs. P. asked me yesterday, " Why is E. C. Pitman's Boot and Shoe *depot*, in NewStreet,Covent Garden, like Madame's Green Room crowded with females ?" " Because its full of *desirable soles*!"—Went there instantly, quite surprised at the excellent and cheap assortment of new Albert and French Patent Dress Boots—quite a curiosity—must be a customer.

On Saturday, I examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—just added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's, &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Even ng, Shakspere's

MIDSUMMER Night's Dream.

Theseus, Duke of Athens, Mr COOPER,
Oberon (King of the Fairies) Madame VESTRIS,
Titania (Queen of the Fairies) Mrs W. LACY,

After which, (5th Time) the Grand, Romantic, Legendary, Burlesque and Comic Christmas Pantomime, entitled The

Castle of Otranto

OR, HARLEQUIN

And the Giant Helmet.

The Music composed and selected by **Mr R. HUGHES.**
The Scenery by the Messrs: GRIEVE.
The Mechanical Changes, by Mr. W. Bradwell Machinery by Mr. H. Sloman.
The Pantomime invented and written by Mr. W. BRADWELL, and Produced under the Direction of Mr. W. H. PAYNE.

THE REGIONS OF ROMANCE.
Spirit of Romance, Miss M. GLOVER,

The CASTLE of OTRANTO

As seen through the medium of Romance.
Spirit of Romance.....Mr S. SMITH,
Grand Attack on the Castle—Sally of the Besieged—Terrific Combat.
Flight of Romance and Triumph of Burlesque.
Interior of CASTLE YARD, with the GIANT HELMET.
TABLEAU VIVANT.
Manfred..(Usurping Prince of Otranto)..Mr W. H. PAYNE,
PrincessHippolyta.....(his very ill-used Wife)..Mr T. RIDGWAY
The Lady Isabella..Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Theodore.....(a Peasant).....Mr C. J. SMITH,
Tremblino...Mr KERRIDGE, Farfromboldo..Mr GOURIET,
The Prophecy.—Vault in the Castle.
The Escape.—Grand Staircase and Gallery, leading to the Great Chamber.
The Ghost—The Castle Gate. *The Gigantic Sabre.*
The Marquis of Vicenza.....Mr MORRELLI,
His Page—Master MARSHALL.
Another View of the Castle Yard and the **GIANT HELMET**
The Denouement. An Unexpected Change in Affairs.
Spirit of Pantomime..Miss MARSHALL,
Harlequin..Mr C. J. SMITH, Columbine..Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Pantaloon..Mr MORRELLI, Clown..Mr T. RIDGWAY,
Tiger to Pantaloon..Master MARSHALL.
Strawberry Hill. *Trafalgar Square, and the National Gallery.*
Opening of the Nelson Monument.
Miniature Model of a Man-of-War's Man, (with a Hornpipe) Miss A. PAYNE.
National Flag Dance, composed by Mr. OSCAR BYRNE.
Furnished Lodgings. *The Temple of the Drama.*
Interior of the Temple. China Warehouse & Grocer's Shop, with Post Office.
Chinese Pas de Trois, Master Payne, Miss Payne, Miss A. Payne.
WAR WITH CHINA.
The subject being started, the **Messrs. Grieve** will have the honor to lay before the Public their Views of the most interesting Disputable Points of

The Eastern Question.

Including a Series of "*Moving* Accidents by Flood and Field," or, Past and *Passing* Events of 1840.

To-morrow, The Merry Wives of Windsor, and the Pantomime.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, a Musical Entertainment, entitled The

Concerts d'Hiver.

Conductor, Mr. ELLASON,

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

Overture to GOETHE'S celebrated Tragedy of FAUST, ... Lindpaintner.

Valses .. Aurora .. .. Labitzky

Quadrille .. Le Gothique .. Musard

Medley Scotch Overture .. Guy Mannering .. Bishop

SECOND GRAND FANTASIA from the Opera LES HUGUENOTS, .. Meyerbeer
'Marche,' 'Couvre Feu,' Ophicleide Solo, Mons. PROSPERE. 'Couplet du Page,' and 'Chanson Huguenott.'—Arranged by MUSARD.

Solo, on an Original Theme. . Flute . . Herr FRISCH.

LOCKE'S Celebrated Music to **MACBETH.**

PART II.

Overture .. Der Freyschutz .. C.M. Von Weber

The Telegraph, or Musical Gleanings
BEING
A GRAND POT-POURRI. .. Strauss.
Embracing Selections from the Operas of

LA GARZA LADRA	FRA DIAVOLO
ROBERT LE DIABLE	MASANIELLO
L'ELISIR D'AMORE	ZAMPA
GUSTAVUS	NORMA

ALSO

SOLOS ON THE	*DUETS ON THE*
Cornet, Herr Koenig	Cornet & Trombone, Herr Koenig & M. Dantonet,
Clarinett, Mr Lazarus	Two Cornets, Messrs. Koenig and Jarrett.
Oboe, Mons. Barret.	

Trio for the Piccolo, Triangle, Bass Drum, and "GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !"

Swiss Air, with Variations, Concertina, Mr G. CASE

Overture .... Le Cheval de Bronze .. Auber

Valses .. Brussler Spitzen .... Strauss

Quadrille, .. I Puritani .. Musard

Galop .. Camille .. Trumpet Solo, Herr MULLER. .... .. Musard

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